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that the brother of Pieck's successor was frequently dismissed and that no qualified successor was apparently available. He also said that the atmosphere at the office was one of mutual distrust, that decrees previously signed by Grotewohl or Ulbricht remained unsigned, and that the leading employees were left without guidance. Most of them believed that the government would be reorganized, with Kastner and Loch most frequently named as possible candidates.

2. Informant stated that Semenov and Ulbricht were on most unfriendly terms. He said that reports on the mood of the population which Ulbricht forwarded to Moscow and which proved entirely unfounded created serious difficulties for Semenov. He stated further that Ulbricht was considered a favorite of Beria, and told that Ebert was called to account and was reprimanded by Semenov.

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1. Comment. According to recent indications, Kastner and Loch appear to be less likely to be assigned government missions.
2. Comment. The information on Ulbricht appears rather improbable, especially as recent observations indicated that, as compared with, for example, Zaisser, he got the upper hand after the fall of Beria.

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